

the child be taught that in reading the Bible, our Father, the dear Father in heaven is talking to us, and that he had something important to say, even to the little child. The child's love or hatred for the Bible is largely a matter in the hands of parents. Would you have your children love the blessed Word of God? Then first of all see to it that in your case, the Book is God's letter to his child, a child born of God.

Another Appeal

The report of the Ashland University Finance Committee as it appears on page three was received on Monday morning after the entire paper except pages two and three was in type. This explains the short item on first page referring to the College and also the appearance of the report on our editorial page. The report shows not quite \$8000 of the \$10,000 in hand. Please read the report from beginning to end and find out where the trouble is. The districts most directly interested are the districts with the greatest number of delinquents. This should not be so. California has paid its entire apportionment; so has the Illiokota district. Kanemorado has but a few dollars to pay and that small balance will be forth coming. Indiana has done nobly, there being but \$250 more to pay to make its apportionment. Pennsylvania is entirely too far behind; it need not be and must not be. How about Virginia, W. Virginia and Maryland? And what is the matter with Michigan? Ohio too is not up to where it should be. Brethren, you can not afford to let the matter go by default. You can not *afford* it, we say. Whether or not settlement will be made without the payment of your apportionment, we can not say, but in either case you can not afford to refuse the payment. If you can not raise the money now, borrow it and raise it during the next year. If you do not want to pay it, write Brother Keim that you do not intend to pay it, so that he may know what to do. This suspense is painful, it is detrimental to our cause, the management must know, and know soon, what report can be made to the creditors. If the debt is paid, school is expected to open in the fall, and announcement should be made early. Act at once and let the matter be settled.

Perils to Religious Life

Perhaps the greatest peril to religion lies in the tremendous increase of the material comforts of modern life. We, extremely comfortable denizens of this highly cultivated world, have no adequate conception of the difference in this respect which has grown up in the last century. A noted infidel recently said that the world had only been fit for a gentleman to live in for the last fifty years. To a man whose whole conception of life is materialistic, who sees nothing and values nothing but the physical comfort and pleasure he may be able to squeeze out of it, this sentiment is quite natural. Comfortableness is the summum bonum of existence,

in his estimate of things; to be well fed and well groomed, and to have always at hand a choice selection of physical and perhaps intellectual pleasures. It is a magnificent conception.

"This whirling world, engirt with splendors vast,
Sprang into space for swine to feed and roam,
For brutes whose littered stall and coarse repast
Is all their tender thought of heaven and home."

A man who has the broader, higher, true conception of life, who sees the unseen, and realizes that that alone is real, whose idea of the world is, that it is a magazine of opportunities for infinite things, that it is a highway, tho perhaps a rough one, to a glorious destiny, will not stop to inquire whether this time is more fit or less fit than any other time for the terrestrial residence of a gentleman. Perhaps he will incline to the opinion that a ruder age, one affording less of the physical comforts, less of the social and material amenities and alleviations was more fit than the present for that kind of gentleman who desires to live grandly and happily after he is done with this present evil world. For it can not be denied that an increase of temporal prosperity, of physical well being, is inimical to spiritual aspiration, and to the development of spiritual life. Make this life very lovely, cause the wrinkled old world to lose his frown and irradicate his hard face with winning smiles, and we content ourselves, and make ourselves warm and snug, and find ourselves wishing that it might last always.

We remember once hearing a good man, a member of the church, a man prosperous in the world and possessed of perfect health, we remember hearing him say that if he could always enjoy himself in the world as he then did, he would be pleased to think that it would never end. What would the early Christians have thought of this sentiment, they who saw only the world to come with its glory, and to whom this world was nothing worth? They would have looked askance at this brother. They would have doubted his orthodoxy, the term signifying to them an unworldly life rather than a fixed creed.

But there is a difference now. Instead of dark dungeons we have brilliant and beautiful parlors; instead of martyr faggots we have steam radiators; instead of the rack we have the sofa; instead of "dens and caves" we have mansions; instead of "sheepskins and goatskins" we have broadcloth and silk; instead of all hardness, all affliction, all despoiling, all earthly ruin and all demoniacal cruelty, we have all ease, all comfort, all luxury and all worldly contentment, so that we are become in love with the world, and don't want to exchange it for any other.

Let us warn men and women against the good things of the world. The comfortable life may prove a snare to the soul, and every

spiritual impulse, every desire for holier things, all yearning for the perfect and the heavenly be smothered in silken folds, and die amid the deceitful abundance and the ephemeral splendor of things which perish.

Look at Your Label

Please look at the label on your paper. There are yet hundreds of them marked 50 97 which means that your subscription expired Jan. 1, 1898, or with the last number of the year 1897. Kindly renew at once. There should be 500 renewals between this and April 1. Please attend to this matter at your earliest convenience.

God's Will Concerning Us

Christian people erroneously refer to God's will as if it always carried with it the idea of pain, suffering, something hard to endure. When about to suffer a severe loss, or when some affliction lays hold upon them, they give expression to the spirit of submission that is within them in these words, "The will of the Lord be done." As tho the will of the Lord concerning them always involved loss, pain, suffering, sacrifice, etc., the taking away of their friends, crushing their hopes or robbing them of their property. This is surely a mistaken view of our Father's will concerning us. When some spiritual joy, some spiritual good, or even some temporal blessing, is about to come into their possession, do they say, "Lord, thy will be done?" Why not? Are not the divine joys and blessings, the rich gifts that come into our lives as verily expressive of God's will concerning us, as are the pains and losses and sufferings that are visited upon us, and even more so? They surely are. For every pain, God's will brings us a hundred joys; for every loss a hundred possessions; for every moment of grief and sorrow, days of gladness in the Lord. When the sweet, innocent little child which you have learned to love is removed from your home the Christian heart says, "Lord, thy will be done." Do we say as much when the child comes into our home? Is not the giving of a gift as much the Lord's will as the taking of it away? Such was Job's view of it. He could say, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." He recognized the will of God in the *giving* of the gift as well as in the *taking* of it. And thus it is in all life's experiences. The coming of the good gifts into our lives and into our possessions is too often interpreted as a "streak of luck," but the taking away of these gifts is interpreted as God's will concerning us. The good things which God is daily crowding into our lives, the gifts of life, health and strength which are ours to enjoy, are these not God's will concerning us as well as the loss of our friends, our life or our health? Let us learn to see God's will in what he gives us as well